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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS
IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE,
FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 2 November 1994 from the representatives of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith the documents entitled "Tegucigalpa International Declaration on Peace and Development in Central America" and "Tegucigalpa Commitments on Peace and Development", adopted by the Presidents of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama and by the Prime Minister of Belize at the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America, held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 24 and 25 October 1994.

We should be grateful if you would have this note and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gerardo MARTINEZ BLANCO
Permanent Representative of Honduras

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Permanent Representative of Guatemala

(Signed) Ricardo CASTANEDA-CORNEJO
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(Signed) Edward A. LAING
Permanent Representative of
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ANNEX I

Tegucigalpa International Declaration on Peace and Development in Central America

We, the Central American Presidents and the Prime Minister of Belize, meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, have agreed on basic commitments stemming from the Alliance for Sustainable Development, which was signed in Managua, Nicaragua, on 12 October 1994. This initiative, together with the agreements adopted in Guácimo, Costa Rica, and the Masaya Volcano Commitments adopted in Nicaragua, illustrates the growing readiness of regional leaders to strive for an increasing degree of integration, democracy, progress and well-being for our peoples.

Our goal in Central America, as we approach a new century, is to build up an alliance among our countries and also with the rest of the world, in order to give direction and permanence to the changes we have undergone in recent years. The resolve to expand democracy which this implies, and the adamant determination to achieve the highest degree of sustainable development, is reflected not only in the action being taken by the Governments of the area within their own countries but also in the growing levels of integration and active cooperation among the States and with the various sectors of society.

Convinced that peace is indispensable for sustainable development, we express the hope that the peace negotiations in Guatemala will be concluded successfully at the end of this year. We reiterate our support for the decision of the people of Guatemala and their President, Ramiro de León Carpio, to sign an agreement as quickly as possible, and we applaud the efforts which the parties are making with the support of the United Nations. Central America is watching hopefully as the last internal conflict in the region draws to a close.

Buoyed by this prospect, the Central American countries are preparing to face the future from the perspective of sustainable development whose primary aim is to enable human beings to realize their potential and place their skills at the service of the community. This complex task can only be carried out through their own efforts with the sustained support of the international community.

After long years of striving, our region has, at last, managed to set itself unequivocally on the path towards sustainable development. In Tegucigalpa, we are concluding a series of dialogues that will usher in a new stage in the relations among the Governments of the area and between them and the various agents in Central American society, the integration organizations and the international community. Such relations will facilitate a better understanding of the problems that will face us, as we approach the next century, in redefining international cooperation and solidarity to conform to the requirements and objectives of sustainable development.

We shall encourage dialogue between the Governments, civil society, regional institutions and the international community, with a view to having a

full debate on the implementation of the commitments undertaken as part of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America.

Looking forward to such concerted action, and drawing satisfaction from the presence of the international community in such strength at this Conference, we call again on friendly countries and international agencies to provide, as a clear sign of their support for peace and development in the region, the cooperation needed to further the effort in Central America to achieve our sustainable development goals.

We appreciate the warm hospitality of our brothers, the people and Government of Honduras, who have ensured the success of the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Central America
26 October 1994

ANNEX II

Tegucigalpa Commitments on Peace and Development

We, the Presidents of the Central American Republics and the Prime Minister of Belize, closely united by ideals of social responsibility, unity and integration, reaffirm our duty to serve the overall well-being of all Central Americans. Accordingly, we declare our firm commitment to the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Latin America, its main objective being that the Central American isthmus should be a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.

Having analysed the centuries-old needs of the region, we have undertaken the following political, economic, social, cultural and integration commitments to supplement those already adopted at Masaya Volcano on 13 October 1994:

I. POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

Peace

1. We undertake to apply ourselves to consolidating and continuing to build peace in the region in a dynamic and active way, in order to foster the comprehensive development of our societies, by intensifying the struggle against poverty, consolidating democracy and the rule of law, modernizing production, preserving the environment, making rational use of renewable natural resources and modernizing the State.

We thus call on the international community to give the strongest possible support to this decision. Moreover, we invite global and regional, financial and technical institutions to take into account, in their policies, plans and programmes of work, the situation of Central America as a region and the qualitative differences that exist in the development of countries and, consequently, to recognize, in the action they take, the different economic and social circumstances of States.

Democracy

2. We undertake to define a plan of action to develop and enhance the process of decentralizing and deconcentrating government offices while respecting the region's cultural and ethnic diversity.

We call upon the national councils for sustainable development to exchange information on experiences and progress in this area. In addition, we agree to meet, as the Central American Council for Sustainable Development, during the first half of 1995, with members of the national councils for sustainable development.

3. We shall institute a plan for the administrative, financial and political development and consolidation of local governments.

We undertake to make every effort to facilitate consolidation of the various forms of organization of civil society.

4. In the context of strengthening the observance and effective enjoyment of human rights, we undertake to work steadily to promote human rights in our respective countries.

To that end, we urge the Central American Council of Lawyers for Human Rights, with the support of the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA), to carry out a study of its human rights activities and to submit a report thereon proposing ways and means of encouraging and systematizing these activities.

5. We undertake to implement a plan of action concerning education for peace and democratic coexistence by updating, extending and enhancing curricula.

We hereby enjoin the educational authorities of all the countries in Central America to prepare a plan of action that will update, extend and enhance curriculum content at every level with respect to education for peace and democratic coexistence. We stress the importance of the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the establishment in El Salvador of the first International Centre for the Culture of Peace, whose activities will be decisive in promoting a culture of peace in our region.

We also stress the importance of early implementation of the programme for a culture of peace and democracy in Central America, which has already received the support of the University for Peace.

Regional Security

6. We shall move ahead with our commitment to improve the administration of justice and to fight crime, thereby ensuring the security of our citizens.

We hereby enjoin the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs to take cognizance of the "justice in progress" plan of action prepared by the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders and to transmit it to the appropriate national and regional authorities for execution as soon as possible in order to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and the rule of law.

7. We underscore our commitment to wage a determined battle against drug trafficking and crime as stated in the agenda and programme of action adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Central American Presidents.

In the context of that commitment, we hereby assign to the pertinent national authorities and the Permanent Central American Commission for the Eradication of the Production, Traffic, Consumption and Illicit Use of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances responsibility for the preparation of a detailed report on progress in complying with the agreements adopted during the meeting at Guácimo. We reiterate our instructions regarding the establishment of a

regional anti-drug force within the time-period agreed at that meeting. We also state our renewed determination to step up the collection and exchange of information for the purpose of combating crime.

8. We shall encourage actions and measures which have a positive, direct impact on increasing and improving the security of people throughout region.

To that end, we reiterate our support for the work of the competent authorities to bring about the speedy establishment and operation of a Central American institute for the training and strengthening of the civil police.

9. We undertake to strengthen and modernize, both technically and financially, the institutions and mechanisms for preventing and controlling corruption and tax evasion, and to promote the harmonization of our respective countries' legislation in these fields.

10. In pursuance of the decisions on regional security taken at our fifteenth meeting, we hereby decide to reactivate the Central American Security Commission for the purpose of producing the model for regional democratic security referred to in paragraph 11 of the Guácimo agenda.

11. We hereby decide to continue to encourage and support implementation of the plan for mine-clearing in Central America, an effort which requires the support of the international community.

12. We express our interest in having the office for Central America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament and Peace established in Honduras.

II. ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS

13. We undertake to orient our efforts in the economic field in accordance with the terms of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America so as to improve the economic and social well-being of the Central American people and achieve proper integration into the international economy and a greater degree of autonomy in determining our destiny.

13.1. We hereby enjoin the specialized regional organizations to formulate proposals for action on the 12 economic objectives of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

13.2. We hereby enjoin the forum of Ministers of Economic Affairs, with the support of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the specialized regional organizations, to carry out a qualitative assessment of progress towards implementing the Central American economic agenda and to harmonize it with the substantive content of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, taking into account the objectives and commitments of the Alliance.

Priority areas

14. We believe that priority should be given to efforts to:

14.1. Promote the harmonization and coordination of the macroeconomic and sectoral policies of our countries.

14.2. Expand and improve the training of the region's human resources with a view to incorporating large segments of the population into competitive production processes.

14.3. Effectively integrate Central America into the world economy through established mechanisms.

14.4. Develop sustainable production processes which stimulate production without harming the environment.

14.5. Implement an industrial conversion programme in keeping with the aims of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

14.6. Encourage support for development programmes and projects in the area of ecologically sustainable tourism.

14.7. Reconstruct, rehabilitate and modernize the regional infrastructure, especially transportation, energy and telecommunications, in harmony with the provisions of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

14.8. To raise economic growth rates in order to reduce poverty and ensure the social and political sustainability of peace and development processes in the region.

15. External debt

In the light of our enormous debt burden and the limited availability of resources to promote the sustainable development of our countries, we undertake to assist one another in the negotiations we have entered into on the subject and, where appropriate, to work together to achieve shared objectives in this regard.

16. Development of border regions

We believe that sustainable development projects which are designed to help settlers and inhabitants in Central America's border zones combat marginality and poverty also encourage preservation of natural resources and foster harmony among our peoples. Accordingly, we support efforts along these lines.

17. Science and technology

We enjoin the Central American Commission on Science and Technology to submit a report to the next meeting of our Presidents, based on our respective national studies on the progress made in implementing the regional programme on science and technology.

III. SOCIAL COMMITMENTS

18. Investment in the human person

We undertake to place the human person at the centre of the Alliance for Sustainable Development, within a framework of equity, solidarity, equality of opportunity and full participation in society. Ensuring the access of the entire population to basic social services, whose quality must be gradually improved, is one feature of this commitment.

We enjoin our Ministers of Social Affairs, in coordination with the Regional Social Affairs Commission, immediately to convene a meeting to discuss and elaborate general guidelines which should within a short period of time provide the basis for a regional social policy; upon completion, this policy should be transmitted to the very next meeting of Central American Presidents.

19. Treaty on social integration

In keeping with the foregoing commitment and with the agreement reached at our fifteenth meeting, we continue to support the broadest possible consultations with a view to the elaboration of a treaty on Central American social integration. This treaty, which will take into account the views of the various sectors involved, will be elaborated by the Regional Social Affairs Commission and the appropriate channels within the Central American Integration System, and will be introduced at the next meeting of Central American Presidents.

20. Overcoming poverty

We undertake to launch development programmes that will enhance the real impact of anti-poverty measures and, in the medium and long term, thereby make it possible more easily to overcome the structural components of poverty and stimulate social investment consistent with the provisions of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

We enjoin our Ministers of Social Affairs, in coordination with the Regional Social Affairs Commission, to present a plan and programme for the technical implementation and funding of this commitment.

We call upon the international financial institutions to join this Central American effort and to support, inter alia, the Central American social investment programme to combat poverty.

We will strengthen the mechanisms to fight poverty on the basis of the criteria of subsidiarity, solidarity, shared responsibility and self-management and will accord priority to training and to support for the municipal structures in charge of community organization and participation.

21. Action to combat discrimination

We undertake to continue working for the elimination from Central American society of all actions likely to encourage discrimination on grounds of gender, ethnic origin, nationality, age, illness and religious or political beliefs.

In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to the establishment of the conditions necessary for the complete elimination of all forms of discrimination from our societies.

22. Development of populations affected by conflict

We undertake to bring populations affected by armed conflict into the development process in the context of reconciliation and non-discrimination, so as to facilitate the transition from emergence to development.

23. Education and health

We undertake to give priority to promoting the education and health of the Central American people, for they are most crucial to the sustainable development of the region.

To this end, we enjoin our Ministers of Education to implement the regional projects adopted at the fourteenth regular meeting of the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination System (CECC); furthermore, we enjoin the Council of Central American Ministers of Health (COMISCA) to encourage the prompt implementation of the principles, areas, components and objectives of the third phase of the Central American health initiative, within the framework of the Alliance for Sustainable Development. We reiterate our adherence to the Nariño Commitment which was adopted at the Second Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas.

24. Food and nutritional security

It is our intention to ensure that the people of Central America are able to benefit from a properly functioning food and nutritional security system suited to the characteristics and modalities of each country.

To this end, we enjoin our Ministers of Economic Affairs and our Ministers of Social Affairs to identify and support measures to translate our commitment into reality.

We call upon the private sector in Central America actively to participate in securing food and nutritional security for our populations by applying standards which ensure food quality and accurate weights and measures and which protect the food supply with biological, toxicological and nutritional controls.

25. Family and sustainable development

We undertake to integrate economic policies with social and cultural policies in order, through a comprehensive approach, to promote the family as

the centre around which Government policies are built and towards which the resulting programmes are directed.

We entrust the forum of Ministers of Social Affairs, with the support of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Social Affairs Commission (ST-CRAS) to carry out, in consultation with the national coordinators, a qualitative assessment of the progress made in implementing the commitments entered into at the Tegucigalpa social summit (December 1991) and to report on their findings within no more than 120 days. The report shall include recommendations for moving ahead towards the targets defined by the national plans of action and bringing them into line with those of the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

We reiterate our unqualified commitment to the agreements entered into at the World Summit for Children, and to establishing appropriate machinery to adapt our countries domestic legislation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, within the framework of sustainable human development.

26. Integration of women into development

We shall continue to foster complete equality between men and women and to increase the contribution of women to social progress and development. We shall also actively pursue policies aimed at eliminating the obstacles to such equality and thus promote the full participation of women in improving society.

27. Follow-up mechanism

We undertake to give particular attention to implementing the commitments made in the social sphere and we instruct the Regional Social Affairs Commission to submit to us for consideration, within six months, proposals regarding a mechanism for enhancing social information systems, at national and regional levels.

IV. CULTURAL COMMITMENTS

28. We undertake to make culture the highest expression of our national and regional identity, within the framework of the Central American Integration System, while respecting the ethnic and cultural diversity of our peoples and remaining in touch with the changes that are taking place throughout the world.

29. Strategy

We enjoin the Regional Social Affairs Commission to draw up, through the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination system and in conjunction with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, a strategy to implement, in consultation with the National Councils on Sustainable Development, the cultural commitments deriving from the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

30. Cultural heritage

We enjoin the Ministers of Culture, or the relevant national authorities, to submit to their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, within six months, the following draft treaties:

A Central American agreement for the protection of the cultural heritage;

A Central American agreement on the organization of exhibitions of archaeological, historic and artistic artefacts;

A Central American agreement for the restitution and return of unlawfully removed cultural property.

We enjoin the Regional Social Affairs Commission, to have the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination System draw up a plan to initiate legal or administrative measures to achieve greater efficiency in the implementation, updating and modernization of laws that safeguard and protect the cultural heritage.

V. ASSESSMENT OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF INTEGRATION

31. We entrust the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System in conjunction with the specialized secretariats for the areas encompassed by the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, with the task of preparing a report on the status of any binding Central American treaties, agreements, protocols and instruments, as regards their signature, ratification and deposit, and the extent to which they are applied and operational within the signatory States of the Alliance.

This report shall be submitted to the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in order that the Ministers may make recommendations to the Central American Council for Sustainable Development at the sixteenth meeting of Central American Presidents.

32. We undertake to see to the elaboration and implementation, using the mechanism of the Alliance for Sustainable Development and with the participation of the Ministries or Secretariats of information and the support of the appropriate regional institutions, of a continuing programme to provide information regarding the Alliance, its results and achievements, in implementation of the commitments made.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Central America, 25 October 1994

ANNEX III

Communiqué

We, the Presidents of Central America and the Prime Minister of Belize, meeting at Tegucigalpa, Republic of Honduras, on the occasion of the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America,

1. Express our deep satisfaction at the restoration of the democratic and constitutional government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti;

2. Acknowledge the decisive contribution which the international community has made, and the key role it must continue to play in the complex reconstruction and reconciliation effort that has begun;

3. Offer the Government of President Aristide and the people of Haiti renewed assurances of our active solidarity; the entire hemisphere is hoping that theirs will be a prosperous and democratic future.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 25 October 1994